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6 BALANCES

6.1 **Objectives**

- 6.1.1 To familiarize the trainee with the operation of laboratory balances
- 6.1.2 To familiarize the trainee with balance calibration and quality assurance
- 6.1.3 To familiarize the trainee with the recording and reporting of weights in laboratory notes and Certificates of Analysis

6.2 Modes of Instruction

- 6.2.1 Self-directed study through reading assignments
- 6.2.2 Presentations and demonstrations regarding use of balances by the TC

6.3 Reference

- 6.3.1 Balance manufacturer's operating manuals
- 6.3.2 DFS Controlled Substances Procedures Manual, Weighing Practices Section

6.4 Assignments

- 6.4.1 Practical exercise
- 6.4.2 Study questions

6.5 Study Questions

- 6.5.1 Define the following:
 - Accuracy
 - Precision
 - Balance
 - Analytical balance
 - Certified weight
 - Tare
 - Trace amount / Residue
 - Truncate
- 6.5.2 Explain the quality assurance program for balances in the Controlled Substance's section. How is it documented? Is balance calibration done with an internal or external weight?
- 6.5.3 What types of weights are used for balance QA? Are they traceable?
- 6.5.4 What is the accuracy of the balances in your laboratory?
- 6.5.5 What is the mathematical conversion between grams and ounces?
- 6.5.6 What is the difference between the troy and avoirdupois weighing systems?

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6.6 Practical Exercise

- 6.6.1 Check the performance of your balances following the quality assurance plan.
- 6.6.2 Weigh the following objects on your top-loading balance and the analytical balance. Record the weights as in case notes and designate the weight to be reported on a Certificate of Analysis.
 - Ten marijuana seeds
 - Weighing paper various sizes
 - Weigh boats various sizes
 - Contents of a "Sweet 'n Low" package

6.7 Modes of Evaluation

6.7.1 Written examination

♦ End